

*Burton & District Family History Society Newsletter

* Burton & District Family History Society is a branch of the Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry



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Editor's Comments

What a lovely summer break we have had this year with excellent weather for getting out and about. Did you do any family history research and, if so, did you find anything interesting? If you did, please let your Editor know as details could be entered in a future Newsletter. Your Editor went to visit The National Archives at Kew, London, for the first time and found it a very interesting experience. The visit may well be discussed at a branch meeting in 2015 as it may help other members who are planning a first visit. In this newsletter there is lots of information on future meetings that may be of interest to our members – please check them out.

Overhead Projector

Burton Branch owns an Overhead Projector which it now no longer uses or needs. Details regarding this will be mentioned at Burton Branch's meeting on 15th October 2014. If you are interested in this, please speak to our Chairman, Janet Kisz.

Microfiche

Members are reminded that Burton Branch owns some microfiche and a reader that members may borrow. Details will be

mentioned at Burton branch's meeting on 15th October 2014.

Staffordshire in the Great War Forum

On Saturday 18th October between 10.00 and 4.00 a seminar and showcase of Great War projects from across Staffordshire will be held at the County Buildings in Stafford.

The programme includes

- Keynote – Impact on communities and the value of research work
- Eccleshall War Memorial
- Burton in the Great War
- Research and volunteers on Cannock Chase
- Tolkien's Staffordshire: developing WW1 walks
- Great War research projects in North Staffordshire
- Potential funding sources
- Projects for the future with tea/coffee

To book for this FREE event please contact susan.dalloe@staffordshire.gov.uk

Victoria County History Study Day - The Early Modern Village in Staffordshire.

Saturday 1st November 2014 from 10.30 till 4.00 at Staffordshire Record Office. Dr Nigel Tringham will speak about the Vicar and the Schoolmaster, Irene Haycock about the Yeoman Farmer and Catherine Cartwright about the

Businessman. Tickets £10. For more information or bookings Tel 01785 278380 or go to www.staffordshire.gov.uk/archives

Derbyshire dialect.

If you're stuck with some Derbyshire dialect words – try these pages compiled by Rosemary Lockie - <http://places.wishful-thinking.org.uk/DBY/DerbyshireDialect.html>

Findmypast website.

Findmypast has recently published the first set of National School Admission Registers & Logbooks 1870-1914. Currently there are 2,562,402 records available to search from thirteen counties in England and Wales: Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Devon, Glamorganshire, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Kent, Lancashire, Middlesex, Surrey and Wiltshire, and also Westminster. Updates to these records, adding further counties, will be published in 2015.

Find my Past has also announced the following: “our commitment is to launch new records every Friday” – so you will have the weekend to browse them. As an example, the following were issued on Friday 10th October 2014: London Apprenticeship Abstracts, 1442-1850; Surrey and City Of London Livery Company Association Oath Rolls 1695/96; Archdeaconry Court Of London Wills Index 1700-1807; Eastbourne Monumental Inscriptions 1610-2008.

Ancestry website.

Ancestry has recently made available the Rate Books for Birmingham 1831-1913. Rates were assessed based on a dwelling's value. These records include a listing of who occupied the house, who owned the house, the type of dwelling, the name or situation of the property, how much rent was collected, and the rates paid and they cover Handsworth, Aston, Harborne, Northfield, Kings Norton, Erdington, Balsall Heath, Yardley, and Edgbaston as well as central Birmingham.

Meeting Summaries:

July 2014: The Censuses Dr Simon Pawley.

The talk began with a brief history of the modern census, always taken on the Sunday night nearest to April 6th (the start of the new tax year). Between 1801 and 1831 information was purely statistical and only occasionally did the enumerator list names. Parish Constables, Overseers and Churchwardens were ordered to carry out a census of the population of their parish as well as providing details of baptisms, marriages and burials from the parish registers. Only the statistical data was sent to London and the original data was almost always destroyed. The government wanted information about occupations and increases in population. The 1841 Census, taken in June included names but once the statistics were extracted the returns were considered unimportant. The 1841 returns were discovered in 1904; 1851 in 1912 and 1861 arrived at the Public Records Office in 1962.

Census schedules were handed out one week before the Census and had to be completed by someone, often the enumerator when he collected the returns officially on the Monday morning. Parish officers were employed to carry out the census, transfer the information into the enumerators' books, then return them to either the Home Office (HO records) or the Register Office (RG records). The originals were then destroyed. Later censuses were very similar with exact ages given, relationship to the head of the household and information about disability. The 1901 census gives information about the rooms in a dwelling, employment status and in Wales if Welsh was spoken. In 1911 the original returns were used to process punch cards and included details about length of a woman's marriage, children born and living and exact trade or occupation. The 1921 census is likely to be released in 2021. The 1931 census was destroyed in WW2 and no census was taken in 1941. Instead there was a National Register of the population with ID cards.

September 2014: AGM and WW1 Memories and Memorabilia.

AGM: Committee members present: Janet K, Janet B, Julia, Judith F, Delia. Apologies received from: Charles and Margaret, Janet P. The committee had all said that they would be willing to remain and were re-elected. Proposer: Catherine C; Seconder: Roy.

Chairman's Report: Janet K thanked the committee and other members for all their help in sharing the workload especially at meetings. The range of meetings was very varied and interesting. Janet was particularly interested in the Tutbury Museum and village visit, the Border Hoppers and Sue W's website comparison talk. She drew members' attention to the forthcoming 'Hidden Histories' event at Lichfield and the Burton Poor Law Union Year Books held at Lichfield JCRO.

Secretary's Report: Delia hoped the year's meetings had been of interest to everyone. Thanks were given to members who contributed to Members' Evenings. Ideas for Members' Evenings or offers to give a talk are welcome. Thanks to the U3A and Sue W for the use of their data projector and to members who have helped with queries sent to us from outside the area. The excellent Newsletter keeps us up to date with meeting reports, events attended (Stretton Community Day, De Ferrers Academy WW1 and Family History Evening, a BBC WW1 event at Stoke-on-Trent and Worcester Family History Fair), news from Staffordshire Archives and BMSGH committee meetings in Birmingham. The main BMSGH topics at present are the effects of increasing production and mailing costs of the Midland Ancestor, falling membership and sales and fewer attendees at Fairs, increasing e-shop sales and income generated from FindMyPast. The Newsletter editor would love to hear of members' trials, tribulations and triumphs of their research.

WW1 Memories and Memorabilia.

We were entertained to a very varied and fascinating set of talks by several members:

Janet B produced some Trench Art. The paper knife was quite obvious but there was some discussion about two very heavy ridged brass balls standing on three small legs with elbowed supports out of the sides. Janet had been told that they were fire guard or fender supports.

Julia W had a collection of her grandfather's war documents. Before WW1 he had a taxi service in Abbots Bromley. He took cattle to market in his truck, and then put seats in it to convey passengers. During the war he was employed as a lorry driver and she had a copy of 'Orders to Lorry Drivers'. She has his record papers, letters home, photos and a train ticket from Uttoxeter to France!

Catherine C told us about three brothers in her family with Stretton connections. Harry enlisted in the Royal Engineers and was awarded the Military Medal. Frank was in the North Staffs Volunteers and was posted to North Africa with the Royal Signals. Fred was one of Burton's most decorated soldiers, a career soldier who was sent to France as a Regimental Sergeant Major. At Ypres he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Cross for repelling three German attacks. At the Somme he was wounded and evacuated and spent two months lecturing on Trench warfare before going to British East Africa to train African Troops. He served in Turkey, Gibraltar and India before returning to serve with the Home Guard in Burton.

Judith F: Two uncles' photographs were on the mantelpiece and there were two dead men's pennies but Judith knew nothing about them. They were Charles and Frank and both were killed in WW1. Two other brothers, Archie and Horace came back. Charles was an ambulance driver and is commemorated on the Tyne Cott Memorial; Frank was in the Household Battalion and was killed at Passchendaele. Judith found an identity bracelet, a cap badge and a victory medal as well as silk bookmarks commemorating the death of the family members.

Delia found a Porteus Field Pipe in a secret compartment in a small wooden box. It had three finger holes enabling a tune to be played and belonged to the only member of her paternal family who served in WW1 with the King's Own Liverpool Highlanders. The Imperial War Museum had never seen one but wrote several years later to say that they had now been given two. Harry Wix was killed at the Somme. Delia was puzzled as to why her Great Uncle Herbert Sanders who served in the Zulu Wars and in India and was clearly too old to serve in WW1 had a War Record after retiring from the army in 1913. Apparently, recently retired officers and those about to retire were re-employed to train the thousands of recruits who enlisted during the first months of WW1.

FoSSA's Tithe map Digitisation Project.

Burton Branch committee has decided to make a donation to this important project although we are aware that not all of our Branch members have ancestry in Staffordshire. 70% of the land area of the county was subject to tithe payments and the tithe apportionment maps and awards provide details of ownership, tenancies and land use in the first half of the nineteenth century. These records are of use to local and family historians. So far volunteers have given more than 6000 hours to transcribe and index about two thirds of the awards. When complete they will be available on the Staffordshire Name Indexes web pages. FoSSA hopes to raise over £18,000 to enable digitisation of the maps which will also be available to view on line. Individuals as well as organisations can also donate to the project and indicate which parish they would like to support.

Further information and a full list of the maps as well as a donation form can be found on the FoSSA web pages at <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives/getinvolved/friends/home.aspx>

Warwick Register Office Request

Warwick Register Office is asking BMSGH volunteers to help transcribe their BMD

registers to be put on the UKBMD web site. This is likely to take years but if you have Warwickshire Ancestry keep looking.

BMSGH promotions

Due to overstocking for Family History Fairs, BMSGH will have some special offers at their e-shop this autumn to get rid of surplus stock.

News from The National Archives

Chatsworth in Wartime exhibition, April 5 2014 - January 4 2015. Included with the price of admission to the House and Gardens. This marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War. Objects, archives, photographs and stories reveal life on Chatsworth estate during both wars. Life on the home front during the First World War; the impact of the war effort on the estate and the contribution made by women are also shown. There is a wide range of objects, from letters and photos to uniforms and paintings. As well as archives at Chatsworth we have also used material from local and national archives yielding many fascinating diaries, letters, pamphlets, estate accounts, photographs and other documents.

Can you help find these families?

Enquiry from Bill McFarlane of Llanelli: William Henry Smith married Annie Maria Hardman in 1894 at Rolleston. Their children were Mabel Helen Smith born Rolleston 1896 and William born Winhill 1900. In 1901 the family are living in Lower Outwoods Road but cannot be found in 1911. In 1891 William and his brother Frederick are at Sawpit Houses Hatton with Samuel Hewett, farmer. In 1901 Frederick and brother Arthur, brewers' labourers are at 113 Horninglow Road. In 1901 Frederick married Jane Weston. She (and possibly their child) died in 1905. He is a widower in 1911.

Enquiry in Burton Mail (Oct 8TH 2014) from Eddie Kendall of Manchester. Eddie's parents were George Edwin Kendall of Burton and Evelyn Alice Spoons of Manchester married there in 1947. She died about 1952 and Eddie

was brought up by his grandmother in Manchester. George Edwin was born in 1926 at 206 Hawkins Lane and had two brothers, Reginald and Raymond. In 1980 he was living in Warwick Street, Horninglow and he died in 2001 at Amber House Care Home, Needwood Street. George's parents were George Kendall of 44 Heath Road and Mary E Barnes of 192 Heath Road, Stapenhill. If you have any information please contact the Burton Mail.

Meetings of Interest:

(a) SAHS (Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society) Meet 8,00 pm at St Mary's Heritage Centre, Market Square, Lichfield. Admission £3.00. :

October 24th: The (WW1) Chinese Labour Corps. 14,000 Chinese labourers came to work in Europe. John Bishop.

November 7th: Pugin, the Staffordshire Connection. The life and work of the architect whose work is important in the Midlands. Rev. Michael Fisher.

November 21st: Operation KIWI, the history and rediscovery of the Messines Ridge model on Cannock Chase. Kirsty Nicol.

December 5th: AGM and the Archaeology of Sutton Park. Dr Michael Hedder, Planning Archaeologist, Birmingham City Council.

(b) Hilton and Marston History Group. Meet 7.30 pm at the Methodist Chapel, Main Street, Hilton. Email hiltonhistory@gmail.com
Admission for non-members:

November 6th: History of the Orchestra and its Instruments with a local slant. Alan Hopkin.

February 5th: Meet the Pagets. Richard Stone.

(c) Etwall and Burnaston Local History Society. Meet 7.30 pm at the Methodist Chapel Schoolroom, Egginton Road, Etwall. Email sandypits.kerby@btinternet.com Admission for non-members:

October 21st: The Workhouse. Dr Wendy Freer
November and December meetings: Members only.

January 20th: Derbyshire Adventurers and Explorers. Shirley Horton

(d) Staffordshire in the Great War Event: October 18th, 10.00-4.00 pm. Stafford County Buildings. Free event. Bookings to susan.dalloe@staffordshire.gov.uk

(e) Victoria County History Study Day: Stafford Record Office Eastgate St. 1st November, 10.30-4.00 pm. The Early Modern Village in Staffordshire. Bookings 01785 278380 cost £10.00.

(f) Staffordshire Hoard Touring Exhibition, St Wystan's Church, Repton 7th October 2014 - 27th November 2014: St. Wystan's Church, Repton: Free Entrance
Opening times: Monday-Saturday 10.00 am-5.00 pm during October; 10.00am-4.00pm during November. Sunday 2.00-5.00. These times may vary to accommodate special services and events. For up to date information see www.reptonchurch.org.uk This is essential as there are lots of variations and on a few days it is not open at all.

Future Branch Meetings:

19th November 2014. Free Websites.

Members' evening but open to visitors.

10th December 2014. Christmas Genealogical Social.*

**There will be a raffle held at this social meeting. If you have any items suitable for a raffle prize please bring them along to the November meeting (or the social meeting if you are not able to attend the November meeting) and give them to a committee member. Thank you.*